

**SORHA Meeting
Porter Town Office
August 10, 2009
6:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Jack & Marion Mitchell, Jamie & Noah Gleason, Rob Heard, Cindy Odlin,
Julie Watkins and Peter Zack

The meeting was called to order and the first item discussed was the upcoming "Brownfield Days". A 2' x 8' colored banner has been ordered through Kezar Falls Trophy for \$160 and should arrive this Thursday or Friday. Julie will have a donation jar and receipt book available. Literature and one free light bulb per family will be available.

Rob spoke with someone from Country Gas in Denmark and they confirmed there is a \$10,000 fund administered through the Town of Denmark, or by someone representing the Town, for people in need. Another business owner in Denmark thought you applied for General Assistance and then were eligible through that program to apply for a portion of these funds. There obviously seems to be confusion at least with some businesses in Denmark as to how these funds are disbursed.

Jamie reported that LIHEAP is currently accepting applications even though no money is available yet. People that are looking to apply are asked to leave a phone number where they can be reached and then they will be called back to set up an appointment. Community Concepts has at least six dates available to visit in Porter and Hiram so that residents don't have to travel far. If a resident is housebound, Jamie has asked that they call her for assistance. It was discussed that an informational sheet can be created to make it clear as to how the LIHEAP Program works and what steps need to be followed.

At least 54 people through the Food Pantry have expressed an interest in winterization kits like those that were available last year. It is not known yet if this same program will be available. Julie and Jamie will make contact with those that were involved last year to see what is happening with this program. Jack will get in touch with Cindy Willets to get letterhead and will then write letters to Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Lowe's to see if they can provide materials at a reduced rate in order to make our own kits if necessary. It was mentioned that, in the past when contact has been made with these companies, the response was that they couldn't sell at wholesale but only at a low sale price. Volunteers would need to be trained in September to help winterize homes. Homes should be visited and measured in October and installation should take place in November. Rob wrote a list of suggested materials that differ slightly from the original kits and will see what he can get for a quote for materials. Local carpenters/contractors might be willing to jump on board to provide winterization assistance.

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Regarding the Apple Festival, Jamie spoke with the President of CAB. Non-profit organizations that are selling something have to pay a fee. At the most it appears it would cost \$25 for SORHA to set up a table. There is a meeting tomorrow night regarding the Apple Festival. One thing that might help SORHA is that a Cornish resident has benefited from this Organization. The Apple Festival is scheduled for September 26th.

The SORHA calendar looks like the following:

Brownfield Days - August 15th

Next Meeting – September 2nd at Porter Town Office

Apple Festival – September 26th

Winterization Kits and Train Volunteers – September/October

Install Winterization Kits – October/November

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Watkins